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**U.S. Embassy Join Hands with Denver and Kunming to Help Madaraka Primary School**

On April 23, the U.S. Embassy donated school supplies to the Madaraka Primary School in Nairobi, at an event attended by representatives from Denver, Colorado and Kunming, China. The Sino-African Initiative of Denver Sister Cities International will begin a water renovation project at the school. The U.S. Embassy conducts a number of initiatives to assist Kenyan school children, including U.S. assistance to education in Kenya through the Foreign Agriculture Service and U.S. Agency for International Development feeding programs and other initiatives. Ms. Jane Munene, Head Mistress of the Madaraka Primary School, thanked all representatives and participants for “joining hands” and appreciated the assistance given to her students, who were grateful to receive educational school materials.



*Michael Greenwald, Public Affairs officer from the U.S. Embassy giving school supplies to Headmistress Ms. Munene from Madaraka Primary School.*

Madaraka Primary School is a city-operated school that currently operates at ¼ of its 1,600-student enrollment capacity, greatly reducing the amount of per-pupil funding the school receives from the city. By improving the facility conditions at Madaraka, enrollment at the school will increase and provide long-term sustainability through increased city funding for the school. Though Madaraka Primary is not located in Kibera, about half registered students who live in Kibera register at the school due to the lack of good primary schools in their neighborhood, and walk there to attend class.



*Students from Madaraka Primary School listening to remarks from Representative of Denver Sister Cities International.*

The Denver Sister Cities International project at Madaraka Primary School was selected through recommendations from the City of Nairobi and the Kenyan NGO partner in this initiative, Maji na Ufanisi, with extensive in implementing water improvement projects in Nairobi schools. The project will renovate water piping at the school and repair water flow to toilets and sinks. Comprehensive WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) training will be provided to students, staff, and community members, and there will be sustainability components including a garden renovation, rainwater harvesting system, and composting micro-enterprise program. The

ultimate goal of the project is to address urban poverty through increased health and education services for youth.

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